**Names Alluded to in *A Brave New World***

Names are a big deal in *Brave New World*. However, note that all the connections we've made here between characters in the novel and historical figures are speculative. We can only give these with varying degrees of certainty. We can be fairly sure, for example, that the "Marx" in Bernard Marx refers to Karl Marx, but others, like Fanny Crowne are educated guesses. Therefore, if you find and believe something different, you might be right!  
  
**Herbert Bakunin:** Mikhail Bakunin was a Russian anarchist revolutionary. George Herbert was a Welsh priest famous for writing holy hymns.  
  
**Bokanovsky's Process:** Maurice Bokanovsky was a French bureaucrat who made a big deal out of how the government should be more efficient. Sounds like a *Brave New World* fit to us.  
  
**Darwin Bonaparte:** Charles Darwin, as you probably have heard, is the guy who came up with the Theory of Evolution, second only in popularity to Intelligent Design. Aldous Huxley had family ties to Charles Darwin, since T.H. Huxley, his grandfather, was a big Darwin-supporter in his day. Napoleon Bonaparte was a French general who conquered much of Western Europe back in the 19th century.  
  
**Fifi Bradlaugh:** Charles Bradlaugh was the first atheist in parliament, which is fitting, since we meet Fifi at Bernard's pseudo-religious and highly ritualistic Solidarity Service.  
  
**Fanny Crowne:** Fanny Brice was a cute actress popular around the time Huxley was writing this novel. Since the fictional Fanny seems mostly to serve the role of a stereotypical, objectified sexual being in *Brave New World*, this works for us. You've also got Fanny Brawne, who was a romantic interest for John Keats, who is referenced in Huxley's novel in the character of Miss Keate, the Eton Headmistress. Also, possibly from Fanny Kaplan, famous for an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Lenin. Ironically, in the novel, Lenina and Fanny are friends.  
  
**Lenina Crowne:** Vladimir Lenin was a Russian revolutionary communist who appropriated Marxism and ended up a leader of the Soviet Union in the 1920s. Lenina, a conformist and essentially tool of the totalitarian government, doesn't exactly live up to her name. Perhaps this goes to show that all "Leninism" necessarily ends in conformity. John Crowne was a late 17th century dramatist whose plays often revolved around some sort of heroic, romantic love. This, too, is ironic for a girl of Lenina's, shall we say, dating habits.  
  
**Clara Deterding:** Clara was the name of Henry Ford's wife, and Henri Deterding is famous for founding the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company. It's appropriate that we meet this character in the same paragraph that we meet Joanna Diesel.  
  
**Joanna Diesel:** Rudolf Diesel was the German engineer who designed the diesel engine.  
  
**Sarojini Engels:** Friedrich Engels was a social theorist who helped Karl Marx (also referenced in *Brave New World*) write *The Communist Manifesto*. Sarojini Naidu was a poet and freedom fighter in India in the first half of the 1900s.  
  
**Henry Foster:** The real Henry Foster was an officer in the British Navy and a scientist whose discoveries were in subjects related to sea-travel, such as magnetism and pendulum measurements. If Huxley's character is a nod to this historical Henry Foster, then it might have to do with the fictional Foster's preoccupation with numbers and measurements. The other contender for this reference is John Foster, a British essayist who was a die-hard supporter of regimented education. Since Foster knows all about engineering and conditioning the embryos, this is a great representation of what "education" has become in this brave new world. The first name "Henry" also gets "Henry Ford" into the mix again.  
  
**Jean-Jacques Habibullah:** Jean-Jacques Rousseau was an enlightenment philosopher who had a lot to do with the socialism and the French Revolution. Amir Habibullah Ghazi was the President of Afghanistan at the time Huxley was writing *Brave New World.***Benito Hoover:** Benito Mussolini was an Italian fascist dictator. At the time Huxley was writing *Brave New World*, he was the prime minister in Italy. Herbert Hoover was President of the United States from 1929-1933, but the fictional Benito's last name might also refer to The Hoover Company, since they were using mass-production when Huxley was writing. (Or possibly Herbert Hoover, the President of the United States)  
  
**John the Savage**: Some relate him to John the Baptist, the biblical figure who baptized Jesus Christ.  
  
**Miss Keate:** John Keate was the headmaster of Eton in 1809, known for his tendency to beat boys silly with a birch.  
  
**The Malthusian Belt:** Thomas Malthus was a British economist who did his most influential work in the late 1700s. His "Principle of Population" was a provocative theory which said that the earth's population would grow out of control if we didn't do something about, namely stop having so many babies. Of course, Huxley's "Malthusian Belt" is full of contraceptives, so it's easy to see the connection. Interestingly, Malthus used to hang out with Rousseau, who is also referenced in *Brave New World* via his first name, Jean-Jacques.  
  
**Bernard Marx:** George Bernard Shaw was a playwright living in London at the time Huxley wrote *Brave New World*. Shaw was a socialist and advocated equal political rights for women – this fits nicely when we think about Bernard's disgust with Lenina being treated as a sexual object. Karl Marx is the famous "father of Communism" – he believed the mistreated lower classes would rise up and throw off the joke placed on them by the upper classes. It's funny that Bernard is himself an Alpha who ultimately prefers the superficial luxury of high society to dealing with any real problems, social or otherwise.  
  
**Primo Mellon:** Miguel Primo de Rivera was a Spanish dictator in power while Huxley was writing *Brave New World*. Andrew William Mellon was the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury during the same time period.  
  
**Mustapha Mond:** Mustapha Mond basically has a stereotypical famous leader name. At the time Huxley was writing *Brave New World*, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was the president of Turkey, having just founded it from scratch. You've also got a string of famous Mustafa's before this particular Mustafa, all of whom were the Sultans of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. (OK, fine, so modern Turkey wasn't totally from scratch.) The fictional Mustafa's last name, Mond, means "world" in French. You've also got this British guy named Alfred Mond, a politician in the early 1900s, so you might want to look into that as well.  
  
**Podsnap's Technique:** Mr. Podsnap is a detestable character in Dickens's novel *Our Mutual Friend*, although probably not as detestable as making humans mature in a mere two years, which is the technique he lends his name to in *Brave New World*).  
  
**Popé:** In August of 1680, there was a rebellion in San Juan, New Mexico called The Navajo Pueblo Rebellion, a.k.a. Popé's Rebellion, since it was led by a Native American of that name against the Spanish settlers.  
  
**Pfitzner and Kawaguchi:** Hanz Pfitzner was a German composer famous for the opera *Palestrina*. This opera features the Council of Trent, which was the Catholic's church meeting to deal with all this new Protestant Reformation hullabaloo. Ekai Kawaguchi was a Japanese monk. It's fitting that both men point back to religion, since the fictional characters went against what at the time were common religious beliefs by developing ectogenesis (the process by which embryos can be raised outside of the womb).  
  
**Morgana Rothschild:** Fata Morgana is another name for Morgan Le Fay, the evil temptress chick who made life difficult for King Arthur of legend. Rothschild is the last name of a prominent banking family in England, though it's a fairly common name and we can't be sure just what Huxley's referring to here.  
  
**Dr. Shaw:** Like the character of Bernard Marx, this seems to be a reference to George Bernard Shaw, the Irish dramatist.  
  
**Calvin Stopes:** John Calvin was a theologian who started Calvinism, which essentially says that we're all predetermined by God to do whatever it is that we do. This is a highly ironic name, since this fictional character is the singer with a bang of sexophonists. Again, sex has perverted religion. The "Calvin" part of his name may also refer to Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States from 1923-1929.  
  
**Polly Trotsky:** Leon Trotsky was a Marxist Communist active in the early 20th Century. He was expelled from the Soviet Union when Joseph Stalin came to power. In *Brave New World*, Polly Trotsky is the little girl who is distressed to find that her male playmate isn't interested in hunting her zipper, which is generally amusing. Also, H.G. Wells (referenced in *Brave New World* by the character Dr. Wells) wrote a comic novel called *The History of Mr. Polly*, so the character of Polly Trotsky might be a nod to that as well.  
  
**Helmholtz Watson:** Hermann von Helmholtz was a famous German physicist. Let's just say that, if we were physicists, we would know an equation or two named after him. John Broadus Watson was an American psychologist who sort of started behaviorism (the theory that you can alter behavior with conditioning, and also that changing behavior is the best way to effect psychological change). He's also the guy responsible for the "Little Albert" experiment in which an infant was given a rat to play with. They became good friends, which went just fine until a bunch of scientists started making loud scary noises when the rat was around. Even when they took away the noises, Albert was scared of the rat. This is basically a less-cruel version of the electrocuting-babies practice we see in *Brave New World*.  
  
**Dr. Wells:** H.G. Wells was a famous writer of science fiction novels. You've probably heard of his works, especially *The War of the Worlds* or the *The Time Machine*. He actually studied biology under T.H. Huxley, who was Aldous Huxley's grandfather. T.H. was an ardent supporter of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.